



It takes us all
to end violence against children

World Vision
KENYA



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#ItTakesUsAll to leave no child behind

This year's day of African Child was celebrated at a time when majority of children remained vulnerable to the effects of drought. While a number of children had an opportunity to gather together and engage with stakeholders to commemorate the day of the African Child, many other children stayed without clean water, food of nutritious value, and quality health care. Others remained out of school and at risk of various forms of violence. Over 1.5 million children in Kenya remained affected by the effects of drought, most of whom required blanket supplementary feeding programme. Many others required basic school attendance needs for them to comfortably remain in school and learn.

In various parts of Kenya, many children and their communities were "left behind" and had no opportunities to celebrate the day of the African child. Partly because they were neither reached by the state institutions nor the non-state actors to celebrate the day, while on the other hand, the situations under which they live required more of emergency response than celebrations.

On the Day of the African child, a number of public statements and rallying calls were made towards ensuring the acceleration of protection, empowerment and equal opportunity for children. However many questions still remain answered. The level of state accountability on the progress made in addressing the effects and root causes of the drought is still a concern that should be relooked into. For instance, there is no official government report that has been made public to demonstrate the progress made in addressing the effects of drought on children and the amount of financial resources spent so far in the emergency response program. There is very scanty information available on the number of children who have been reached in each of the counties, categorized by sex, age group and vulnerability.

While the Day of African Child is already gone, the issues that children are faced with still remain with us every day. Indeed many children are still left behind. With the same vigor that state institutions and non-state actors organized for, and conducted the events to commemorate the Day of African child, efforts must now be put to maintain the momentum towards addressing various forms of vulnerabilities that children are confronted with in various parts of the country.

If we are to ensure that we leave no child behind, then it is critical that we isolate clearly what has been planned and budgeted for children for the next FY17/18, and ensure that every child is reached, because every child counts.

Aware that the Government of Kenya's financial year starts on 1st July, the National and County Government Departments and Institutions should share with the public the specific outputs they have planned to delivery and how much resources have been budgeted for towards ensuring that all children access clean and safe water, food of nutritious value, shelter, quality health care and basic education. Specific details should be provided on how the state has planned to ensure that in the new financial year, all children are protected from sexual violence, female genital mutilation, child marriage, hazardous or exploitative labour; inhuman treatment and all other forms of violence.

Leave No Child behind when developing the 3rd MTP and the 2nd CIDPs

Aware that the Government of Kenya has begun the process of developing its 3rd Medium Term Plan of Vision 2030 and that the County Governments will be developing their 2nd County Integrated Development Plans, no child should be left behind during these processes. The views of children should be considered in the development of the 3rd MTP and the 2nd CIDPs for all the 47 County Governments.

The State Department of Planning, in collaboration with the Department of Children Services, should consider developing and disseminating specific guidelines on how children are to be consulted during the development of the 3rd MTP by the National Government. Further guidance should be provided to all the 47 County Governments on how they should ensure that the views of children are considered in the development of the 2nd CIDPs.

There is an overwhelming public commitment by a number of Child Focused Civil Society Organizations in Kenya to facilitate children-consultative forums with an objective of ensuring that the views of children inform the 3rd MTP and the 2nd CIDPs for all the 47 County Governments. A commitment on the part of government to ensure that a reasonable proportion of children are involved in the development of the 3rd MTP and the 2nd CIDPs will therefore go a long way towards ensuring that no child is left behind.



A pupil from Tseikuru, Kitui County raising issues on behalf of other children during the day of the African child
Photo | World Vision

Day of the African Child 2017

“Accelerating protection, empowerment and equal opportunities for children in Africa by 2030”



Children sharing a cake with the Principal Secretary responsible for the State Department for Social Protection, Ms. Susan Mochache, during the day of the African Child National celebrations.
Photo | World Vision

World Vision Kenya in collaboration with other stakeholders, facilitated children to commemorate the day of the African Child across various communities and counties in Kenya. During the celebrations children raised a number of issues which should be urgently addressed.

KEY ISSUES RAISED BY CHILDREN

- Children going without food at their homes and in schools
- Children remaining out of school due to lack of school attendance needs
- Most vulnerable children not receiving Bursary allocation
- Inadequate access to quality health care services
- Inadequate access to safe water and quality sanitation facilities.
- Children being subjected to Female Genital Mutilation
- Children being married off.
- Children being defiled
- Children being neglected by their families and communities
- Children being expose to hazardous labour
- Children being caned in schools and at homes,
- Children in conflict with law being held together with adults in police cells.
- Children not being involved in decision making at home, in school, in the community and by government



Children in a procession in Nyamira County during the day of the African child celebration
Photo / WorldVision

WHAT CHILDREN WANT TO SEE

- Adequate food of nutritious value at home
- Sustainable school feeding program in schools
- Have all their school attendance needs provided for so that their remain in school
- Equitable allocation of bursaries with specific attention to the most vulnerable children
- Quality health care services closer to their households
- Piped, clean and safe water in their households and schools
- Arrest and prosecution of everyone who exposes them to various forms of violence
- A home, community, school and society free of violence
- Not to being caned at home and in schools.
- Child friendly systems and structures for handling children in conflict with the law.
- Meaningfully involvement in decision making processes such as planning and budgeting at community, county and national level.
- Regular feedback and updates on how their issues are being addressed by community leaders, school Boards of management, county and national government officials.

#It takes fathers to keep girls in school

*Sarah enjoyed studying at a Primary school, in Kenya and hoped to pursue a teaching career after completing her education, to become a teacher just like her Father, until she found out she was pregnant and was expelled.

*Sarah is just one among many girls who are forced to drop out of school as a result of child pregnancy. *Sarah's parents were not pleased with the news of her pregnancy but they learnt to forgive and accept what had befallen their family. Her father being a teacher, had attended numerous workshops and training conducted by World Vision on child protection and this had equipped him with skills to rehabilitate her daughter.

Determined to see her dream of being a teacher fulfilled,*Sarah gave birth and after a few months went back to school to continue with her studies. Her father decided to take up the responsibility of ensuring that *Sarah remains in school to pursue her dreams. **"Before I go to work every morning I take her to school which is 10kms away while her mother takes care of our grandchild. In the evening after work, I make sure I rush to pick her in good time so that she has spends time with her baby, does her homework and rests."**said *Sarah's father.

*Sarah's father encourages parents in the school where he teaches to embrace education for the boys & girl child and more especially for those girls who get impregnated while still pursuing their education.

Child pregnancy has a direct implication on school dropout among girls in Kenya and is a subsequent contributor to the disparities experienced in the education of both girls and boys. Moreover, Child abuse cases in Kenya are the major causes of school drop outs. Child pregnancy is often downplayed in many communities in Kenya.

World Vision continues to facilitate public education and community dialogue forums on the importance of education especially for girls who have dropped out as a result of child pregnancies and child marriage.

Fathers have an important role to play, in ensuring that their children are protected all the time from sexual violence that often leads to child pregnancies and child marriage.

It takes fathers and mothers to protect their children from violence and ensure that they attend and remain in school upto completion.

NB: * (Names concealed for anonymity)

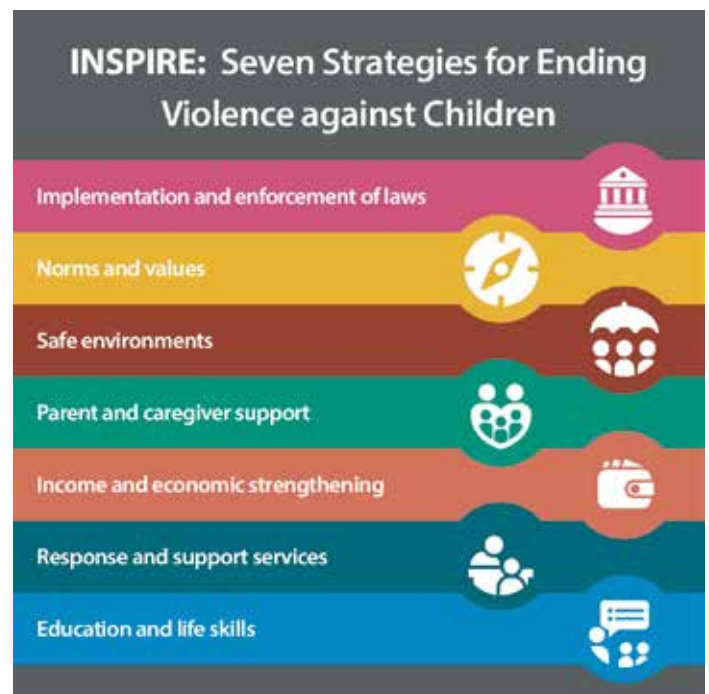
#ItTakes Nyamira County to end violence against children

Nyamira County continues to battle with various forms of violence against children. Top in the list being child neglect, Female Genital Mutilation, child pregnancies, Child marriage and sexual exploitation. Such forms of violence effectively ends a girl's childhood, curtails her education, minimizes her economic opportunities, increases her risk to domestic violence, and puts her at risk for early, frequent, and very high-risk pregnancies

In the efforts to ensure that children are protected from all forms of violence, it is paramount to ensure that girls and boys including children with disabilities are resilient and actively participating in child protection efforts. Over 600 children led by 24 boys and 24 girls, members of Children assemblies in Nyamira County, got an opportunity to engage leaders on child protection issues during the 2017 Day of Africa child celebration. Through the partnership World Vision Kenya, Aphia Plus, Nyamira County department of children services and the Ministry of Education, children were enabled to celebrate the day of the African child in Nyamira County.

Some of the issues raised by children include; bursary allocation not targeting the most vulnerable children, child pregnancies leading to school drop-outs, children in conflict with law being held together with adults and defilement cases. Responding to the issues, the County Coordinator for Children Services who was the guest of honour for the day, promised to work with other stakeholders to ensure that the issues are resolve.

INVEST IN INSPIRE TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN



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